



Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

The monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA



Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls

by Christine Smith
(2012, MX Publishing)

A Review by: SOB Charlie Cook

This work consists of a novella and two short stories, the novella being that of the title. Three wounded veterans of the War in Africa return to London to form a munitions business. A secret formula for an amazing new explosive is invented and villains want it. When vet #1, Matthew Crowder, refuses to yield the info, he is tossed over the Lodore Falls. Later vet #2, Brett Sullivan, is run down by a cab, but he makes it to Baker Street, pleading to Holmes for help. Meanwhile vet #3, Danny Peterson, is lured to the shore of the Thames expecting to get information about the murder of Crowder. But it's a trap and he too meets his end.

After hearing Brett's story, Holmes deduces what the explosives are needed for and sets a trap of his own. But it is only later that he learns the identity of the mastermind behind the plot. **Continued on Page 4**

True or False? A Dialogue between SOBs PFL David & Stu Nelan

Nelan: "(The May 2016 issue of) *Atlantic* says that this is the #2 prank of all time:

Arthur Conan Doyle supposedly once sent a telegram to twelve of the wealthiest and most influential men in England stating, "Fly at once, all is discovered." Within 24 hours, it is said, all twelve had left the country.

I never heard of this! Instead I think someone has confused fact with fiction—GLOR, I believe. What do y'all think??"

Haugen: "I had never heard of this either. I searched for it on Bing, and here's part of what came... **Continued on Page 4**

Watson's Teasers, Part 2

By: SOB Charlie Cook



In what tale did Watson bring these **unwritten accounts*** of Sherlock Holmes' cases to our attention?

1. The Tarleton Murders
2. Adventure of the Amateur Mendicant Society
3. The Addleton Tragedy
4. The Affair of the Aluminum Crutch
5. The Politician, the Lighthouse and the Trained Cormorant
6. Adventure of the Tired Captain
7. The Terrible Death of Crosby, the Banker
8. The Singular Adventures of Grice Pater-son in the Island of Uffa
9. Victor Lynch, the Forgerer
10. The Question of the Netherland-Sumatra Company

* i.e., "the untold tales"

Answers appear on Page 2

Important Alert!!!

As previously announced, effective with the publication of the **October 2016** issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, standard distribution will be **by email!** We will use your email address on file.

Those with NO email will continue to receive Twaddle by snail-mail!!!



To "opt out" of receiving *Twaddle* by email, please notify Editor Terri by **September 23, 2016**.

Call: (253) 460-2753

Email: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

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September, 2016

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The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!

Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the north-west corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

SOB Vivika Sundqvist Promises Unusual Enlightenment; Meeting Date Changed!

The **September 11, 2016** Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m.** at The Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

If you have a favourite snack or non-alcoholic beverage you'd like to share, please feel free to bring it along!!

Says **SOB Margie Deck**, who's stepping in as program chair through year-end: **SOB Vivika Sundqvist** tells us that her subject at our August Meeting will be "A Shanksnag of a Maroon-Party"*—with a promise that she'll explain it at the Meeting! No clue if it's Sherlockian, Victorian or even Anglican, but it should be fun!!

* *When you google her title, all that came up was reference to our April Twaddle, wherein we first mentioned Vivika's talk!! So we are still stumped!*



2nd International Sherlockian Summit is November 5!

SOB Board Member Emeritus Al Nelson has made arrangements for The 2nd International Sherlockian Summit—a joint meeting of Sherlockian Clubs drawing attendees from throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond—on **Saturday, November 5, 2016, Noon to 4 p.m. at the Skagit River Brewery (404 S. 3rd St, [360] 336-2884), Mt Vernon, WA. (<http://www.skagitbrew.com>).**

This will be a social event, so plan to meet many old friends and some new folks! The cost is only the price of what you eat and drink!

Our Summit location—again The Skagit River Brewery—provides a casual setting and excellent and attentive service!! As we did last year, we will order from the Pub's menu, with separate checks.

Program and entertainment to be determined, but it will be a day to remember! See our write-up of last year's event at: http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/2015/International_Sherlockian_Summit.pdf

We hope to have carpooling from various Seattle-Tacoma locales for those who need rides! Please make yourselves known to Al or PFL David!!

Sherlock Seattle Con presents "Watson Washington"!

For years Sherlock Holmes has been the man of the hour, but now it's time to shine the spotlight on an equally worthy character—Dr. John H. Watson! So, this year we bring you "**Watson Washington**"—a convention where we celebrate all things Watson, from the original ACD Canonical stories to the latest incarnations of the world's most famous doctor!

Sherlock Seattle will hold "**Watson Washington**" **October 21 to 23, 2016 at the Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle, WA.** We are delighted to announce our two Guests of Honor: Robert Ryan, author of the "Dr. Watson at War" series of novels, and Larry Albert, the voice of Imagination Theater's Dr. Watson.

We are currently in the process of inviting other special guests and creating programming. Check out our current plans at: <http://www.sherlock-seattle.org/#!/programming/ci94>

Basic Memberships for the weekend are now \$60; VIP memberships, \$80.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work, so *Sherlock* Seattle is looking for Staff and Volunteers to make "Watson Washington" their best convention yet!

To buy memberships or volunteer, go to: <http://www.sherlock-seattle.org>.



Watson's Teasers, Part 2

Answers to the quiz on Page 1

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 10. REIG | 5. VEIL |
| 9. SUSS | 4. MUSG |
| 8. FIVE | 3. GOLD |
| 7. GOLD | 2. FIVE |
| 6. NAVA | 1. MUSG |

Librarian's Corner



"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own .



— Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

There's been a change made to the **SOB Club Lending Library**.

Instead of trying to have a little bit of everything for everyone, its emphasis will now be that of a **Research Library**.

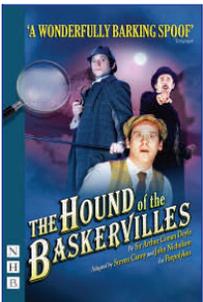
If you want to lead a story discussion, like SOB Airy Maher did in May on LION, you can check out the Annotated Sherlock Holmes. If you want to know what the newspapers were saying about Conan Doyle or Sherlock Holmes back in the day, we have both current volumes of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers.

Our Library still has lots to offer, even with this somewhat limited scope of specialty! Contact me for our current list of items available!



SOB Librarian
Sheila Holtgrieve
sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com

Attend HOUN at Lakewood Playhouse on October 9!



Kicking off its 78th season, the Lakewood Community Players will perform the *Playhouse Premier* of **"The Hound of the Baskervilles"** from **September 9 thru October 9** at the Lakewood Playhouse in Lakewood, WA's Town Centre.

The Club will attend the 2:00 p.m. performance as a group on Sunday, October 9. Prices are \$25 (\$21 for seniors) and tickets are available by calling (253) 588-0042 between 2 and 6 p.m. weekdays.

Notes **SOB Margie Deck**, "It's a comedic take on the classic...performed by only three actors!"



The SOB's
Electronic Stops

We're on the web at:

www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Like us on

Facebook at:



[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles)

[soundofthebaskervilles](http://www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles)

Follow us on Twitter at:

twitter.com/SeattleSherlock



Follow us on Tumblr at:

<http://thesoundofthebaskervilles.tumblr.com/>



Left, SOB Shannon Wallace says: Here's a pic of me on the "set" of Granada Holmes and living up to my Canonical name "The Cornish Horror!"

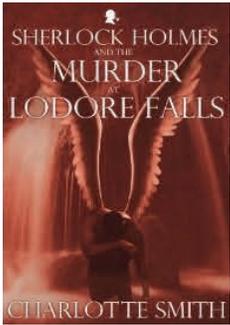


Right, SOB Airy Maher visits a haberdashery in London last January.



Check out the write-up about PFL David & Terri's adventure to the *Triennial Minnesota Sherlockian Conference in Minneapolis in June* at the "Breaking News" page on our website at: www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/breaking.html

At left (l to r), Conference Co-Chair Julie McKuras with SOB's PFL David, Stu Nelan and Michael Phillips



Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls

Continued from Page 1

Throughout the tale Holmes, Watson and Brett meet danger. However, the author seems to be unaware of Holmes' skill at bartitsu, as he is thwarted over and over again—faring no better than a barroom brawler. Incredibly all three seem to recover quickly from severe punches, kicks, knife wounds and bullets. About to meet their end, our two heroes are saved by Brett, who declares that he will sell his business and become a detective. Holmes claims that he looks forward to working with him in the future. Sadly, I will not be privy to any new collaborations!

“The Call of Angels”

Leaving his practice late on Christmas Eve, 1890, Watson is unable to find a cab. In his eagerness to get home to Baker Street, he cuts across Hyde Park and slips on the ice. He hallucinates that he is visited by an ethereal stranger who informs him that his detective friend is on his way to help, but that much sadness and suffering will be inflicted on him in the upcoming year.

Indeed, Holmes is so worried about Watson being late that, after weeping for his friend's safety (YUK!), he surmises that Hyde Park is the place to look. He is suffering from a knife wound (from some other unnamed “adventure”) and falters, but is helped by an ethereal stranger. He finds Watson, gets him safely back to 221B where they exchange Christmas presents.

The obvious question one asks is: Why was Watson—who was, as indicated in his section on Watson's biography in Jack Tracy's “Encyclopedia Sherlockiana”, married to Mary Morstan in 1888 who died sometime between 1891 and 1894—living with and spending Christmas with Holmes?

Holmes, alas, believes that the ethereal stranger helping them was the Archangel Gabriele. To quote old Eb Scrooge, “Humbug!”

“The Adventure of the Wooden Boat”

This is neither an adventure nor a mystery and has nothing to do with Holmes and Watson, except for the misuse of their names. It is a Christmas story and reads like an assignment from a writing class.



I am not a critic, just a reader, never looking to find fault with what I read, but as such I regret having read and even worse having bought this “pastiche” collection. Make your own decision!

True or False? A Dialogue...

Continued from Page 1

...up at disinfo.com:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was supposedly the orchestrator of a cruel joke. One night, bored and idly toying with wicked thoughts, he decided to send a note to



five of his friends. The note would be delivered anonymously. It would have no signature, and would contain no information. It would only say, “We are discovered. Flee!”

At his next dinner party, his social circle was abuzz with the sudden, and total, disappearance of one of the people he sent the notes to. The person was never heard from again. But the story didn't start or end with him. Edgar Allan Poe also was said to have done such a thing.

Given that this prank has different numbers of people affected (five vs. twelve), different methods of communication used (telegram vs. note), and this source's statement that Poe was said to have done this earlier, I would say it is false. That being said, it is such a great story it will probably be circulating years from now. What are your thoughts?

Nelan: I looked it up on Snopes at: <http://message.snopes.com/showthread.php?t=19954>. Their bottom line:

“In the end, I think it doubtful that Conan Doyle ever tried it, but it's suggested that he liked passing on the yarn as truthful.”

Which I could believe.

Haugen: Thanks for the extra research. I agree with you.

From SOB Margie Deck:

A bunch of us got together in August to host visiting BSI Roseane McNamara from The Sydney Passengers, Australia. Pictured here are (at left) SOB's Sheila Holtgrieve, me, (at right) Kashena Konecki,



Roseane (in purple) and Elinor Gray of Portland, Co-Founder The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex. SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI took the photo.



At left (l to r), SOB's Terri Haugen, Barbara Nelson and Ginie Romnes do lunch in Bothell in April!!



The Sound of the Baskervilles By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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Regular Monthly Meeting, **Sunday, September 11**—this is a date change—1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle
See details on Page 2!

“The Hound of the Baskervilles” at Lakewood Playhouse **Sunday, October 9, 2:00 p.m.**
See details on Page 3!

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes, **October 15 to January 8.**
See details in sidebar at right!
 * SOB group attendance TBA *

Regular Monthly Meeting, **Sunday, October 16, 1:30 p.m.** at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

“Watson Washington” **October 21 to 23, 2016** at the Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle, WA. *See details on Page 2!*

“2nd “International Sherlockian Summit”, **Saturday, November 5, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.** in Mt. Vernon, WA
See details on Page 2!

Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our August 21, 2016 Meeting, presided over by SOB VP Kashena Konecki were:

Shannon Wallace	Margie Deck
Lauren Messenger	Ariana Maher
Cameron Brandon	Hank Deck
Chris “Bear” Berwald	Al Nelson
Melinda Michaelson	Marcia Marcy

● **Thanks to Al Nelson for these notes:** VP Kashena led the business portion of the meeting, with upcoming events—of which there are many (*see sidebar at left!*) She also noted the date change for the next Meeting to **Sunday, September 11!** Margie led the story discussion on VEIL and, even though opinions were mixed as to the quality of the story, the discussion was very vigorous. Was Mrs. Ronder a victim or a guilty conspirator of murder? We discussed all ways of looking at this and contrasted how this kind of event would be perceived in today’s legal world. All in all it turned out to be a great discussion about a story that doesn’t really have a plot or any real involvement of Sherlock—other than as a bystander. We all agreed that something dark was going on with ACD when he wrote this one!

The Sound of the Baskervilles ... is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$20 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter “Ineffable Twaddle”, a copy of Beaten’s Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.

Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: “The Masters’ Dinner” celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), “The Annual Wreath Throw” commemorating Holmes’ loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), “The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic” (July), and “The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification” (December). Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.

It’s Almost Here:

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Footprints, splatter patterns and the powers of observation mark the journey through “The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes”, coming to Seattle’s Pacific Science Center, **October 15 through January 8.**

The interactive experience combines science with history and culture to bring to life the historic underpinnings of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s rich and vibrant stories.

Guests will learn how Sherlock Holmes, used seemingly trivial observations of clues others missed to solve some of his era’s most mysterious crimes. His practices and techniques, created in the mind of doctor-turned-author Conan Doyle, changed the way police work was conducted and remain in practice today.

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes features original manuscripts and period artifacts, investigative tools influenced and used by Sherlock Holmes, and interactive crime-solving opportunities.

Guests will be transported into Sherlock Holmes’ London to solve a crime in a world filled with innovation and experimentation.

Tickets available September 12 for Pacific Science Center Members; September 19 for the general public.

<https://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/the-sherlock-holmes-exhibition/>